GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5560
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2003
UNDER NOURISHED CHILDREN
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly half of the Indian children are under nourished;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the large food subsidy did not result in reducing under nourishment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA)

(a) As per the National Family Health Survey-2 (1998-99), the underweight in children (0-3 years) is 47%.

(b)&(c) The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional, which cannot be addressed by food subsidy alone. It is inter-generational in nature and is an outome of inter- related set of factors, such as food insecurity at the household level; poor purchasing power of the people; illiteracy and ignorance, particularly among women; ill health; gender discrimination against the girl child; poor socio-economic status of women; poor access to heatlh care, safe drinking water and sanitation; high rate of population growth, etc.

(d) The Programme being implemented, which, inter-alia, aim at reducing undernutrition, include Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Nutrition Component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Pilot Project in 51 Districts to provide free food-grains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant & lactating women, Nutrition Education Programmes, Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, Targeted Public Distribution System, etc.